



The People of First Presbyterian Church

OUR GATHERING

The Chiming of the Hour		
Prelude	“One Small Child”	Meece, arr. Pethel
Welcome and Announcements		
Choral Call to Worship	“Canticle of the Turning”	Star of the County Down
Prayer of Praise and Adoration		

Responsive Litany

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.
And he will be called Everlasting Father.

We wait for the one who knows our deepest thoughts and fulfills our every need.
And he will be called Everlasting Father.

We wait for the one who will love us unconditionally, as a parent loves a child.
And he will be called Everlasting Father.

We wait for the one whose grace and mercy will never end.
And he will be called Everlasting Father.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Today we light four candles. The first candle reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor; the second candle, of our joy in proclaiming Christ as almighty God. The third candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace into the world. We light the fourth candle to celebrate the fact that God loves us in spite of our flaws, just as a parent loves a child. In an unsettled world, surrounded by confusion, we affirm that our Everlasting Father is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

+Opening Hymn # 145 “What Child Is This” Greensleeves

Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Moment for Silent Meditation.*

Congregational Prayer Response: ***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me. From Hymn # 471 (Verse 1)***

Assurance of Pardon
Choral Anthem
+Passing of the Peace

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination		
The Word of God		Isaiah 7:10-16 (p. 598) Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (pp. 511-512) Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 1)
<i>Children’s Message</i> Sermon	“Christmas Dreams”	Reverend Buren Blankenship

+Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+The Gloria Patri, 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OUR RESPONSE

Prayers of the People
Call for the Offering
Offertory “Still, Still, Still” arr. Logan

+Doxology, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below: Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+Prayer of Thanksgiving

+Communion Hymn # 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” Gloria
(Verses 1, 3, and 4)

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

+Sending Hymn # 110 “Love Has Come” Bring A Torch
(Verses 1 and 3)

+Charge and Blessing

+Postlude “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” Handel, arr. Mason

+ Indicates a time to stand as you are comfortable in doing so
Please join in unison reading of the bold print

Praise Reports

Julian Gardner!!!
His Mother’s words:
“After 16+ years...Julian no longer has to wear AFO braces and was able to do something huge and a little emotional. He went shoe shopping for shoes that fit his actual feet. Not his feet + plastic + Velcro + hardware; just his feet.”
Congratulations Julian!
You are literally a “WALKING” miracle.

Carol Jones!!!
Carol Jones, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, is recovering well from her surgery. The surgery was a success and prayers were answered. The pathology report shows surrounding biopsies are negative. Carol is cancer free. She will follow up with doctors in Tupelo.

Prayer Concerns

Jon Fortman
Health Concerns

Allison L. Jones
(Scott Jones’ Mother)
Health Concerns

Julian Gardner
Continued Prayers

Sherean Harrington
(Hope Oakes Stepmother)
Health Concerns

Noah Russell Nagy
Continued Prayers

Simon Storer
(Friend of Lee Hackett)
Cancer Diagnosis

Scott Starkweather
Recovery from Fall

Hope Oakes
Health Concerns

Mary Anne Hamblen
Hillary Richardson’s Mother
Recovery from knee surgery

Hilda Nance
Hillary Richardson’s Aunt
Recovery from stroke

RJ Jennings
Health Concerns

Please let the church office know if you have any praise reports or prayer concerns.

THE CHURCH AT WORK

We welcome you to
First Presbyterian Church!

A Nursery is available in the Education Building for the youngest worshipers (birth through K).

Restrooms are located on both floors in the Education Building. Follow the signs or ask a friendly face who will be happy to help you find anything you need.

Today
4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.
Session Meeting

9:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School

11:00 a.m.
Communion Worship
Rev. Buren Blankenship

Wednesday
No Prayer Group

6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

Thursday
Nativity of the Lord/
Christmas Day
Merry Christmas!

5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

Next Sunday
1st Sunday of Christmas

9:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship
2 Cents A Meal
Melissa McDuffie

Baptism of Jonah Richardson
Rev. Cader Howard

The Office & PCDP will be closed December 22 –January 2. Both will re-open on Monday, January 5th.
Have A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Session

Dr. Tom Richardson, Moderator, Pro-Tem
Hope DeVenney, Clerk of Session

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Maridith Geuder-1	Fran Brown-1	Hope DeVenney-4
Tori Pumphrey-4	Marthalie Porter-1	Tom Hatcher-2
Lezli Waits-4	Steve Porter-2	Anna Jones-4
Steve Wilkes-2	Susan Smith-2	Tom Richardson-3

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

Diaconate

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Hope Oakes-3	Lee Hackett-1	Roger Burlingame-2
Eric Waits-4	Mary Nelson-1	Holly Longton-3
Sue Hatcher-3		Jennifer Mearkle-2

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

LAST SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE: 77

Helping Hands Immediate Needs:

Canned ready-to-eat soups, peanut butter and boxed cereals.

HELPING HANDS BLANKET DRIVE

Helping Hands has started its annual blanket drive. New blankets may be dropped off in the education building. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please reference Helping Hands Blanket Drive.

First Presbyterian Church

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Administrative Assistant: Tracie Hanson (662) 328-5992

Email: firstprescolumbus@gmail.com

Interim Choir Director: Doug Browning

Accompanist: Shirley Ellis

PCDP Director: Lezli Waits

Custodian: Rowland Jennings

Connect with us:

Email: firstprescolumbus@gmail.com

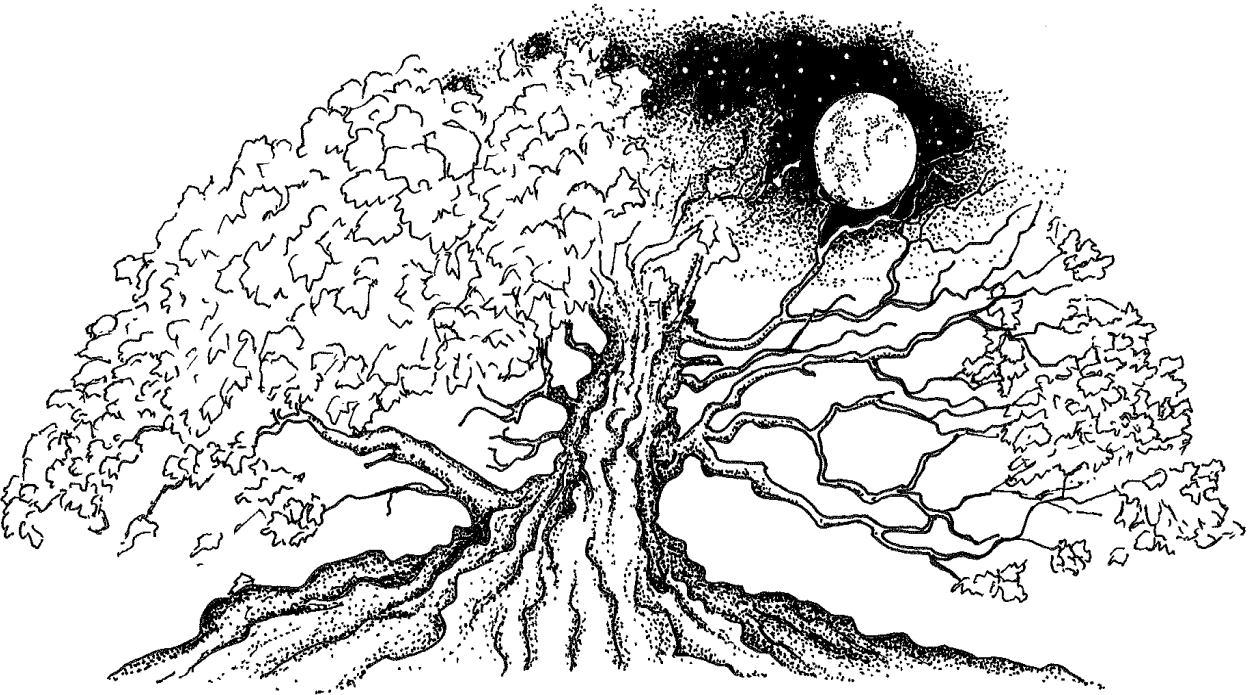
Website: Firstprescolumbus.org

Facebook: Firstprescolumbus

Twitter: @Columbusfpc



First Presbyterian Church
Columbus, Mississippi



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

“Christmas Dreams”

4th Sunday of Advent

Reverend Buren Blankenship

December 21, 2025

